Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IOE-00 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12
NEA-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /121 W
-------091911Z 005691 /45

O R 091830Z JUN 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8112
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AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO PLAB
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE; REPORT ON PLENARY
MORNING OF JUNE 9

FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL SUMMARY REMARKS MADE BY VARIOUS DELEGATES IN PLENARY OF ILC MORNING OF JUNE 9:

BEGIN TEXT

FOLLOWING ACTION ON THE REPORT OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE PLENARY DISCUSSION RESUMED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF BROAD GENERAL STATEMENTS MORE OR LESS RELEVANT TO THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL. THIS TWO-PART REPORT IS, IN TURN, SUFFICIENTLY BROAD TO GIVE LICENSE TO ADDRESS MOST ASPECTS OF ILO PERFORMANCE. AUSTRIAN SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEISSENBERG DID SO TO GOOD EFFECT IN REVIEWING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION AND IN EXPRESSING REGRET IN THIS CONTEXT AT THE AMOUNT OF TIME DIVERTED FROM TECHINCAL WORK TO POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

A FORMER AND RESPECTED LONG-TIME MEMBER OF THE WORKER GROUP, WEISSENBERG LASHED INTO THE POLITICIZATION WHICH HAS

BESET ILO AND WARNED THAT THE US ACTION DEMONSTRATES THAT THE END RESULT CAN BE TO DRIVE OUT "CERTAIN STATES OR GROUP OF STATES." IT PRODUCES A LOSS OF RESPECT FOR ILO AND MAY LEAD EVEN TO ITS COLLAPSE. WEISSENBERG CONCLUDED BY CAUTIONING POINTEDLY THAT SHOULD TWO PRESENT "TRENDS" WITHIN THE ORGANIZA-"THE TREND AGAINST UNIVERSALISM AND THE TREND AGAINST TRIPARTISM", EVER BECOME UNITED ILO COULD NO LONGER STAND.

AS THOUGH TO DEMONSTRATE THE VITALITY OF THE PROBLEM (PREPARED STATEMENTS MAKING FOR IMPERFECT DIALOGUE), SYRIAN LABOR MINISTER HAMADA FOLLOWED TO SAY THAT ILO SUFFERS STALENESS FROM A CONSTITUTION OVER 50 YEARS OLD, AND THE TIME HAS COME TO GIVE THE ORGANIZATION "A NEW ORIENTATION." HE CALLED FOR "MORE DEMOCRACY" AND THE ABOLITION OF "PERMANENT SEATS" IN THE GOVERNING BODY, AND WENT ON TO ATTACK THE IMMEDIATE FRUSTATION, THE PROCEDURAL COMPLICATIONS PREVENTING SYRIA AND OTHERS FROM INTRODUCING AN ANTI-ISRAELI RESOLUTION ON THE BASIS OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT. HAMADA URGED THE CONFERENCE TO AVOID "ENDLESS DISORDER" BY REJECTING THE OPINIONS OF THE LEGAL ADVISOR AND TAKING DECISIONS INTO ITS OWN HANDS.

THIS THEME ON THE NEED TO RESTRUCTURE ILO AND TO GET ON WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1974 RESOLUTION ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WAS TAKEN UP THEREAFTER, ALTHOUGH LESS PASSIONATELY, BY SUDAN'S MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM. IT WAS ADUMBRATED AGAIN BY BAHRAIN'S MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, AL-KHALIFA. ALTHOUGH A MAIDEN SPEECH FOR BAHRAIN IN THE ORGANIZATION, AL-KHALIFA DISTINQUISHED HIMSELF AND BAHRAIN BY (A) PROPOSING THE ERECTION OF A NEW FUND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHIN ILO TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LDC'S, TO WHICH HE IMPLIED ARAB COUNTRIES COULD BE MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS, AND (B) A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE IF QUESTIONS OF RESTRUCTURING COULD NOT BE RESOLVED AT THE PRESENT CONFERENCE.

ASSERTING THAT TRIPARTISM IS THE CORNERSTONE OF CYPRIOT POLICY, CYPRIOT LABOR MINISTER SPANOS INSISTED, BUT IN OBLIQUE REFERENCE ONLY TO THE PROBLEM ON CYPRUS, THAT ILO SHOULD CONSIDER VIOLATIONS OF ILO PRINCIPLES BY MEMBERS OUTSIDE OF THEIR NATURAL BOUNDARIES.

THE KEYNOTE WHICH WEISSENBERG HAD STRUCK AT THE OPENING OF THE JUNE 9 DEBATE WAS MORE ILLUSTRATED THAN HEEDED AS THE MORNING WORE ON.

END TEXT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED**

Concepts: LABOR, MEETING REPORTS Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 09-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA04633
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D770206-0373

Format: TEL From: GENEVA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770671/aaaackjf.tel Line Count: 115

Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: ba0bee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ACTION IO

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2207214 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE; REPORT ON PLENARY MORNING OF JUNE 9 FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL SUMMARY

REMARKS MADE BY VARI TAGS: ELAB, ILO To: STATE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba0bee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released **US** Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009